

Chesterfield Friends Meeting House
Crosswicks, Burlington County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Chesterfield Friends Meeting House
Crosswicks, Burlington County, New Jersey

Owner: Society of Friends

Date of Erection: 1773

Architect:

Building Committee: Abel Middleton and Isaiah Robbins

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: One and gallery

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Floors - wood

Exterior walls - Flemish bond brick
with burnt ends

Interior walls - Both panelled and
plastered

Roof - Slate over wood shingles

Historical Data:

The present Chesterfield Meeting House is the third one used by the Friends at Crosswicks. The first meeting house was a small frame building erected in 1692; the second, a brick structure, was built in 1707. Neither of these houses stood on the site of the present building. This was erected in 1773 and belongs to the Hicksite branch of the Society of Friends.

Several events of the Revolutionary War are associated with this meeting house. It was used as a barracks by the American and British troops; there are

rifle-butt marks on the floor and bayonet marks on the benches that prove this. General Cadwallader with about two thousand militia camped in Crosswicks in December of 1776. When General Clinton marched across New Jersey in 1778, he stayed at Crosswicks on the night of June twenty-third. A skirmish took place at the bridge when a company of British attempted to cross. The American artillery fired on the British; several cannon balls struck the meeting house, one of which lodged in the north wall.

In the meeting house there is an Atsion wood stove, the history of which is given as:

"At a monthly meeting of Friends held at Chesterfield 9th, 12th month, 1772. It is reported the stove is erected agreeable to the appointment at last. Meeting and the Friends appointed to collect money to defray the charges thereof is desired to continue their care and this meeting appoints Stacy Potts, Collector, for Trenton on that account. At Mon's meeting of F held at Chesterfield 7th of 1 mo. 1773 the Treasurer produced to this meeting an account of the cost of the stove and erecting the same in its place which amounted to eight pounds four shillings and ten pence."

Among the photographs included is that of an old oak in the meeting yard house. The bronze plate on this tree reads:

1682	1932
THIS TREE WAS LIVING WHEN	
WILLIAM PENN	
CAME TO PENNSYLVANIA	
1682	
WHITE OAK QUERCUS ALBA	
GIRTH BREST HIGH 1932 17 Ft. 5 In.	

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Bibliography:

Material collected by George DeCou,
local historian, from Friends Records.

Walter C. Rutt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
District Officer